

YFC MONTHLY NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2026

YFC ENGAGES LOST TEENS IN
CHRIST-SHARING RELATIONSHIPS

SUMMER CAMP by Ed Kaczmarek, Executive Director:

100 kids, 20 adults, three buses, a Suburban, and a truck and trailer. That's the caravan that went up the hills to Woodleaf Camp during the last week of July.

This was really a remarkable camp, starting with Day 1. **You could hear a pin drop** when we had our first evening session - the one where we sing worship music, listen to a compelling speaker, get challenged to follow Christ, and gather for prayer. More than 30 hands went up in the air, indicating their desire to receive and follow Jesus! I have NEVER seen a camp where the kids were so attentive and... frankly, READY to hear from the Lord! I told our team this is a testimony of how faithful they've been the rest of the year to build caring and trusting relationships with the kids, so that they would feel comfortable opening up, sharing, and being vulnerable with each other and with their leaders.

One young man who caught fire at camp was Tristan. He has been attending church, growing in his faith, and camp stoked his fires. He was seen (and heard) reading scripture publicly each day; playing his worship music on his blue tooth device; and he would hop up and worship on stage whenever possible. In Tristan's own words posted on Facebook:



This was one of the best 3 days I've had it was lots of fun. Just being able to be vulnerable, open up, and confess the things I've been through has been very life changing. The best part was being able to be there for each other. Thank you to Eric that was preaching he really spoke life into me and has changed the perspective on how I look at things. Thank You God for the wonderful time I had and for making me the leader I am today. I memorized the camp Bible verse by heart. Romans 12:2 "Do not Conform to the patter of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve God's will is-his good pleasing and perfect will".

1w Love Reply 1

Tristan represents a lot of kids we work with - those who earnestly seek God and want to change their lives for Him. It is humbling, exciting, encouraging.



Now, many of these kids have never been outside of Sacramento, let alone two hours away in the mountains, and many are coming from desperate home lives. **Let me tell you about a young man I'll call Carlos.** A 15-year-old dad, he got homesick BAD the first night because he missed his 2-month-old baby and his girlfriend. Somehow Carlos found out that I was in charge of who stays and who goes home, so he became my shadow that whole first day. "Mr. Ed, Mr.



Ed, I gotta go home, Mr. Ed, PLEEESE!" You could see the distress on his face, and the tears flowed. As a rule I try everything to help kids stay at camp even when homesick so they can get the spiritual value... and thankfully, Carlos was deeply impacted during the first evening chapel. Amazingly, our camp speaker, Pastor Eric, randomly called out Carlos, identified that he had a private struggle, and prayed for him. Carlos wept, and was profoundly affected. His whole demeanor and countenance changed. He said, "I feel so free! I feel so light!" I believe he met the Lord that evening. Finally the next day he showed me a text saying that his baby was in urgent care with a condition, and we took him



home. So we hoped to continue the relationship and new found faith journey at home. But unfortunately, as sometimes happens in difficult home situations, a fight broke out with his step father upon his arrival home. The police were called, and Carlos was taken to juvenile detention in Woodland. Latest word is that he was transferred to a detention center in Colorado where his closest family members reside. We are trying to connect Carlos with YFC chaplains in Colorado. **Pray with me for Carlos.** He must be having an extremely difficult experience while missing his baby; pray for his new faith to take root and bring him the peace of Christ.



Camp was fun, crazy, exhausting, hilarious, challenging – all these wrapped together. Most of all, it was an opportunity for our adults to spend quantity time with kids as well as quality time. Living life together is the only way to build relationships, and that's exactly what we did. It was special.

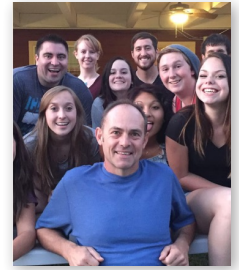
Every student received a camp T-shirt, a cool camouflage Bible, and a custom-made study booklet. Kids got to swim, paddle board, waterslide, ride the giant swing, play basketball, perform group challenges, battle in team crud wars, melt s'mores, cool off with ice cream, play crazy games, sing loudly, and chat in small groups. Most of the kids received scholarships to attend camp. We're so grateful for the hundreds of supporters who contributed to this need. Now we're planning camp for next year and looking for ways to follow up with kids this year.



CAMPUS MINISTRY BEGINS: High school and middle schools started as early as the first week of August! Many of our leaders are getting ready for the startup of campus clubs and have already met with their student leaders. At the Barn, we hosted the **Campus United Back to School Rally** for Christian campus club leaders. At least 18 campuses were represented in this night of worship and prayer for our campuses. Plus we had some hang time, fun and games, and dessert. Pray for our local campus clubs, that kids will hear the gospel and respond!



CHECK PRESENTATIONS: Once again, several students received scholarship support from the Rob Maxey Education Fund to help them afford college. Administered by Robby Maxey, we work together to identify students in good standing who are currently or were formerly connected through YFC ministry, relationships, and programs. This year's recipients include Maiah, Shane, Aizlee, Joromo, Zyriah, Dev, Carlyann, Andrea, Mauleon, and Serenity. They'll have life changing experiences at the college of their choice. **What a great legacy!**



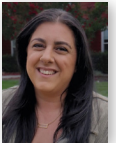
YFC/Campus Life recently received funding from the City of Roseville to help us purchase another vehicle to transport kids here and there. Carrin and a few of her students went downtown to receive the "giant check" (the one in the photo), and later the little check (the one that goes to the bank). Campus Life/YFC is increasingly recognized regionally as an organization that does what it says and truly helps kids from a variety of socioeconomic and faith backgrounds. It is great to have broad support for what we do. We are also continuing to work on our **Point Break** program, improving it and making efforts to take it to new and additional schools who need to see a culture change on campus.



VOLUNTEER CORNER: Our Administrative Assistant Gina Saraceni has been digging in and working on our volunteer process to streamline and improve it. We don't want any hindrances to onboarding volunteers! But there is a process that must be adhered to, and Gina is stellar at helping people get their clearance. **Please let us know if you'd like to consider a volunteer role with YFC!**



STAFF DEPARTURE: Deana Hyatt has served for three years in our Placer County Campus Life division. She has excelled at developing student leaders and at planning camps and events. Deana will be greatly missed! We are currently seeking her replacement to keep continuity in the ministry.



UPCOMING EVENT: TUESDAY, SEPT. 15TH: YFC Golf Challenge at Winchester CC. Join us for (or sponsor) a top-rate golf tournament in support of the ministry! Visit yfcsacramento.org/events for more information.

Blessed to support our youth,



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